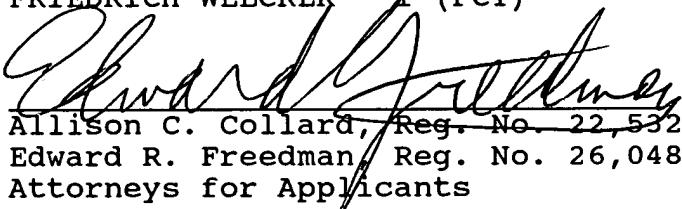


characterised by movable jaws which act on the strand (2) at
By right angles to the axis of the pressure cylinder (18).--

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, a discussion of prior art references has been inserted on page 2 and other minor amendments have been made in the specification. Claims 1-11 have been replaced by new claims 12-19 and an Abstract is being provided. These changes correspond with the changes made in the International application. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Abstract

Express Mail No. EL 622 000 057 US

Date of Deposit January 30, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Ass't. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231


Lisa L. Vulpis